

## TALENTED ATHLETE SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME (TASS)

### ATHLETE SELECTION POLICY

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#### INTRODUCTION

The Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS) is a Government funded initiative providing a unique partnership between National Governing Bodies of sport and higher/further education establishments in England. The aim of the programme is to help:

- Maintain a balance between training as a performance athlete and academic life.
- Bridge the gap between non-funding grass roots sport and world-class sport.

TASS provides athletes with a tailored package of services such as Coaching, Strength and Conditioning, Talented Athlete Lifestyle Support, Physiotherapy, Sports Medicine, in addition to assistance with competition and training expenses.

TASS athletes do not directly receive a financial award but instead will be offered access to sporting services through TASS accredited Universities, Colleges and Schools. Each athlete will be assigned a Lead Institute (HUB) responsible for mentoring and liaising with the athlete and organising service provision.

#### TASS ELIGIBILITY

TASS is not available to funded world class athletes i.e. Podium and Development.

To be eligible for TASS, athletes must:

- Have a British passport.
- Be undertaking a recognised education programme registered at an Institution in England.
- Be able to represent either Great Britain or England in their chosen sport.
- Not be earning more than £7000 per year from their sport (sponsorship or additional grants) or from employment.
- Sit within the following age band:
  - Lower Age Limit - 16 years old on the 1st September (the year the award is made)
  - Upper age limit - 24 years old on the 31st August (the year the award is made)

#### AWARD TIMESCALES

A TASS award is made annually and runs from the 1st October - 30th September. An athlete can continue to receive annual awards if they meet both the British Swimming and TASS eligibility criteria.

Athletes must sign a contract with TASS for the term of the award and can be removed from the scheme if the terms and conditions of the contract are breached or if they progress onto the World Class Programme.

## TASS AWARDS

The TASS Scholarships are awards to the value of £3,500 per annum. The award is broken down into 2 distinct areas:

### 1. Core Services

Athletes will be assigned to their nearest TASS Hub which will provide access to £1,500 of core services to include Physiotherapy, Strength and Conditioning, Sports Medicine and Mentoring through the TASS Hub network.

### 2. Sport Specific Services

The sports specific services are identified by British Swimming (see table below) and are managed and administered by TASS or the TASS accredited educational institutions (HE) assigned to the athlete.

Amount	Service	Deliverer (HE or NGB)	Hub or NGB to claim	Description of required service
£200	Coaching (fees)	HE	HE	Contribution towards swimmers' club fees. Swimmer to pay for and claim back from HE.
£700	Camps	HE	HE	Contribution towards British Swimming designated camps and club camps. Minimum of 2 international or domestic camps to cover swimmers' travel, accommodation and associated pool / coaching fees. Swimmer to pay for and claim back from HE.
£700	Competitions	HE	HE	Contribution towards travel and accommodation at a minimum of 3 international or domestic competitions. Swimmer to pay for and claim back from HE.
£200	Expenses	HE	HE	Contribution towards swimmers' travel expenses for training. Swimmer to pay for and claim back from HE.
£200	Equipment	HE	HE	Contribution towards swimmers' sport-related equipment costs. Swimmer to pay for and claim back from HE.
<b>TOTAL £2000</b>				

## ATHLETE NOMINATION/SELECTION

To access TASS support, athletes must be nominated by their sport's National Governing Body. Each sport sets its own criteria for core TASS support which athletes must achieve to be considered for a TASS award.

TASS has provided the Swimming programme with 7 athlete places for the period 2009-10. To be considered for a place on TASS, swimmers must:

- Meet the eligibility criteria set out above.
- Sit just outside of the World-Class Programmes and have an upward and progressive performance profile.
- Meet at least one of the performance criteria set out below:
  - Ranked World Top 40 (2 per nation) plus 1% in an Olympic event
  - A Junior Open Water athlete achieving Senior International selection

Where more swimmers meet the criteria than available places, swimmers with the highest world ranking (2 per nation) will be prioritised. In the event of a tie, the swimmer with the highest world ranking (absolute) and medal potential will take priority.

## **NOMINATION PROCESS**

In August 2009, the British Swimming Athlete Pathway Review Group will consider performances of eligible swimmers for inclusion on the TASS 2009-10 programme.

Athletes meeting the criteria will be provided with a TASS Nomination Form to complete electronically and British Swimming will submit the required documentation and Nomination Forms to TASS by the **1<sup>st</sup> September**.

TASS will confirm to British Swimming which athletes have been accepted and British Swimming will notify the successful athletes. Athletes will also be contacted directly by TASS and be required to sign and return to TASS an athlete agreement and medical consent form within 28 days to confirm their place on the programme.

## **TASS EXPECTATIONS**

TASS will require athletes to:

- Attend their TASS Induction.
- Actively engage with their service deliverers – communicating effectively.
- Attend Lifestyle Support Sessions throughout the TASS year.
- Attend Strength & Conditioning sessions.
- Attend physiotherapy sessions as appropriate.
- Attend a Profiling/Screening.
- Feedback on notable performance/competition results to the TASS National Office.
- Adhere to their NGB Anti Doping Policy.
- Communicate with Lifestyle Support Staff and Educational Teaching Staff on sporting (training & competition) and academic commitments.

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

TASS Review Meetings will be undertaken with the TASS Swimmers and British Swimming representatives twice yearly. The reviews are likely to take place around the October and May period, however, these may change and athletes will be informed of the exact dates well in advance.

## **CONTACTS**

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